

**J. FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LEGAL IMMIGRANTS (FAP)**

Two events led to the implementation of the nation's first state-funded food assistance program for legal immigrants:

- In August of 1996, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, or welfare reform, was passed. The new law restricts certain aliens lawfully admitted entry to the United States from receiving federal food stamp benefits.
- In response to federal welfare reform, the Washington State legislature working with Governor Gary Locke authorized a state funded food assistance program to provide benefits to those aliens who were no longer eligible for federal benefits solely due to new alien requirements. The Food Assistance Program for Legal Immigrants (FAP) was implemented on September 1, 1997.

**WAC 388-400-0045 Food assistance program for legal immigrants (FAP)--General eligibility requirements.**

- (1) A legal immigrant meets alien status eligibility for the state-funded food assistance program if the immigrant:
  - (a) Meets those alien status requirements of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 in effect prior to August 22, 1996;
  - (b) Is not eligible for federal food stamps solely due to the immigrant provisions of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, P.L. 104-193, as amended. The immigrant must meet alien status rules under WAC 388-424-0025.
- (2) FAP provides the same amount of benefits as the federal food stamp program. Some assistance units may receive a combined benefit of both state and federal food stamps. Food assistance benefit levels are found in WAC 388-478-0060.
- (3) FAP follows the same eligibility rules, except for alien status, as the federal food stamp program. The federal food stamp program summary is found in WAC 388-400-0040.